# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: §
    John William Carbone et al. §
  §
Serial No.:    10/064,665 §
  §
Filed:    August 5, 2002 §
  §
For:    SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR §
    PROVIDING ASSET §
    MANAGEMENT AND §
    TRACKING CAPABILITIES §

Group Art Unit:    · 3627

Examiner:    Sheikh, Asfand M.

Atty. Docket:    126726-1/YOD
    GERD:0778

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## APPEAL BRIEF PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 41.31 AND 41.37

This Appeal Brief is being filed in furtherance to the Notice of Appeal mailed on August 4, 2007, and received by the Patent Office on August 8, 2007.

, The Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee of $510.00, and any additional fees which may be necessary to advance prosecution of the present application, to Account No. 07-0868, Order No. 126726-1/YOD (GERD:0778).

1. **REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest is GE Medical Systems Information Technologies, Inc., the Assignee of the above-referenced application by virtue of the Assignment recorded at reel 013292, frame 0082, and recorded on September 12, 2002. GE Medical Systems Information Technologies, Inc., the Assignee of the above-referenced application, as evidenced by the documents mentioned above, will be directly affected by the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

2. **RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Appellants are unaware of any other appeals or interferences related to this Appeal. The undersigned is Appellants' legal representative in this Appeal.

3. **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-50 are currently pending and final rejection and, thus, are the subject of this appeal.

4. **STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

As the instant claims have not been amended since the last Final Office Action, there are no outstanding amendments to be considered by the Board.

5. **SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

The present invention relates generally to systems and methods for managing flow of physical assets between various entities. Application, page 1, lines 12 and 13 (first two lines of para. 1). More particularly, the present invention relates to methods and systems which utilize various computer technologies to create and maintain an up-to-date record of asset status and location information which may then be shared among various personnel. Page 1, lines 13-16. The Application contains two independent claims, namely, claims 1 and 26, both of which are the subject of this Appeal. The subject matter of these claims is summarized below.

Independent claim 1 generally recites a system (e.g., 100, 200) for enabling enhanced asset management and tracking capabilities, including: a plurality of electronic asset identification devices (e.g., 212), wherein each of the plurality of electronic asset identification devices is affixed to an asset (e.g., 214) whose location and information are to be managed, wherein each of the plurality of asset identification devices includes at least unique identification information relating to the asset to which it is affixed; an asset management server computer system (e.g., 102) for maintaining at least one database containing information regarding the asset identification devices and the assets to which they are affixed; a remote client computer system (e.g., 104) operatively connected to the asset management server computer system for exchanging information over a computer network; and at least one interrogation device (e.g., 106) operatively connected to the remote client computer system, wherein the at least one interrogation device is separate from the remote client computer system and receives information from the plurality of asset identification devices and exchanges said information with the remote client computer system. *See, e.g.,* Application, page 6, line 14 – page 12, line 18; Figures 1 and 2.

Independent claim 20 generally recites a method for enabling enhanced asset management and tracking capabilities, including: affixing a plurality of electronic asset identification devices (e.g., 212) to an asset (e.g., 214) whose location and information are to be managed; programming each of the plurality of asset identification devices to include at least unique identification information relating to the asset to which it is affixed; maintaining at least one database containing information regarding the asset identification devices and the assets to which they are affixed on an asset management server computer system (e.g., 102); operatively connecting a remote client computer system (e.g., 104) to the asset management server computer system for exchanging information over a computer network; and operatively connecting at least one interrogation device (e.g., 106) to the remote client computer system, wherein the at least one interrogation device is separate from the remote client computer system and receives information from the plurality of asset identification devices and exchanges said

information with the remote client computer system. *See, e.g.*, Application, page 6, line 14 – page 12, line 18; Figures 1 and 2.

6.    **GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

**First Ground of Rejection for Review on Appeal:**

Appellants respectfully urge the Board to review and reverse the Examiner's first ground of rejection in which the Examiner rejected claims 9, 14, 34, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**Second Ground of Rejection for Review on Appeal:**

Appellants respectfully urge the Board to review and reverse the Examiner's second ground of rejection in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 10, 16, 17, 24, 26-31, 41, 42, 45 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Marsh et al. (U.S. 2003/0023517, hereinafter "Marsh").

**Third Ground of Rejection for Review on Appeal:**

Appellants respectfully urge the Board to review and reverse the Examiner's third ground of rejection in which the Examiner rejected claims 7, 15, 32, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Examiner's Official Notice.

**Fourth Ground of Rejection for Review on Appeal:**

Appellants respectfully urge the Board to review and reverse the Examiner's fourth ground of rejection in which the Examiner rejected claims 8 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Bothman (U.S. 2003/0101108).

**Fifth Ground of Rejection for Review on Appeal:**

Appellants respectfully urge the Board to review and reverse the Examiner's fourth ground of rejection in which the Examiner rejected claims 9-10, 14, 34, 35, and 39

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Bothman (U.S. 2003/0101108), and further in view of Ahlberg et al. U.S. 6,587,836).

7.   **ARGUMENT**

As discussed in detail below, the Examiner has improperly rejected the pending claims. Further, the Examiner has misapplied long-standing and binding legal precedents and principles in rejecting the claims under Sections 102 and 103. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request full and favorable consideration by the Board, as Appellants strongly believe that claims 1-50 are currently in condition for allowance.

A.   **Ground of Rejection No. 1:**

In the Final Office Action, claims 9, 14, 34 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner appears to assert that the term "hypertext transfer protocol server" would not be understood by one skilled in the art. Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that all qualified practitioners operating in the field of web servers, and similar devices would understand the scope of "hypertext transfer protocol server." Further, the present specification discloses an exemplary HTTP server 220. *See* Application, page 12, lines 6-18 ("This information is then made available to a web application server 218 and connected HTTP server 220).

Moreover, Applicants do not object to the Examiner's interpretation of the term to relate to, at least in some embodiments, a server that provides access to web pages. In view of the foregoing, Appellants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and indicate the allowability of the claims.

B.    **Ground of Rejection No. 2:**

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-6, 10, 16, 17, 24, 26-31, 41, 42, 45 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Marsh.  Claims 1 and 26 are independent.  Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection.

*Legal Precedent*

Anticipation under section 102 can be found only if a single reference shows exactly what is claimed.  *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985).  Every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in a single reference.  *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).  Indeed, the prior art reference also must show the *identical* invention "*in as complete detail as contained in the ... claim*" to support a *prima facie* case of anticipation.  *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Furthermore, if the Examiner relies on a theory of inherency, the extrinsic evidence must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is *necessarily* present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill.  *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 49 U.S.P.Q.2d 1949 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (emphasis added).  The Examiner, in presenting the inherency argument, <u>bears the evidentiary burden</u> and must adequately satisfy this burden.  *See id.*

*Deficiencies of the Rejection*

Claims 1 and 26 are believed to be clearly allowable over Marsh as Marsh cannot possibly anticipate the claims in their present form.  Both in formulating the rejection, and in the response to arguments section of the Final Office Action (see page 26), the Examiner appears to make certain comparisons between the disclosure of Marsh and the subject matter recited in the present claims.  In particular, three items are specifically at issue.  The claims recite an "asset management server component" that the Examiner appears to equate to the "data server 130" of Marsh.  Secondly, the Examiner appears to

equate the recited "remote client computer system" to the "transmission device" of Marsh. Finally, the Examiner appears to equate the recited "interrogation device" to a "computing device" of Marsh. That is, the following comparisons are made by the Examiner both in formulating the rejection and in the response to arguments section of the Office Action:

| Recited component | Component of Marsh |
|---|---|
| asset management server component | data server 130 |
| remote client computer system | transmission device (no ref. no.) |
| interrogation device | computing device (no ref. no.) |

The Examiner's analysis appears, however, to be fundamentally flawed. In particular, the Marsh disclosure identifies the "computing device" as part of a field control device 110. *See, e.g.,* Marsh, paragraph 21. The "transmission device" of Marsh, which is referred to in one single passage in paragraph 21 of the reference, is said to be "advantageously connected" to the computing device, apparently within the field control device 110. No other description or qualification is made in Marsh of the structures or functions of the "transmission device" and the "computing device". It would appear from Marsh that the two devices are provided together and are, at the very least, inseparable.

Claims 1 and 26, on the other hand, require that the recited remote client computer system and the recited interrogation device be *separate*. Accordingly, even if the Examiner's analogies are accepted, which Applicants do not do, by the very disclosure provided in Marsh, the Marsh "transmission device" and "computing device" do not meet the claim requirement of being of a separate nature and communicating with one another. At least on this basis, Marsh cannot anticipate the pending claims.

In response to Appellants arguments, which the Examiner did not find persuasive, the Examiner specifically stated in the Advisory Action:

> The examiner notes Marsh states in one embodiment the
> computing device and the transmission device are
> contained in one device, however the examiner notes that
> the other <u>inherent</u> embodiment would be that the computing
> device and transmission device are separate. The examiner
> has further <u>provided support</u> for this inherency by
> providing the Reynolds patent (see at least, USP 6,286,762,
> FIG. 1) provides evidence for the other inherent
> embodiment in Marsh's "advantageously connected."

Advisory Action, page 2 (emphasis added).

Appellants respectfully emphasize that a feature of "the computing device and transmission device [being] separate" is *not* <u>necessarily present</u> in Marsh. For such a feature to be *inherent* in Marsh, the feature must be *necessarily* present. *See In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 49 U.S.P.Q.2d 1949 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Here, again, there is no reason to believe such a feature is necessarily present in Marsh. And the Examiner has provided no reasonable explanation or reason such a feature to be inherent. To be sure, the Marsh system would operate as desired without such a feature.

Undeniably, the Examiner has plainly *not* met his burden in establishing inherency. In other words, the Examiner has *not* shown that "the computing device and transmission device are separate" is a feature *necessarily present* in Marsh. Appellants respectfully remind the Board that it is the <u>Examiner's burden</u> to establish inherency, and not the Appellants' burden to disprove inherency. *See In re Robertson*, 49 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1949.

Lastly, Appellants would like to address the Examiner reference to the Reynolds patent (U.S. 6,286,762) as "support" for the inherency argument. *See* Advisory Action, page 2. First, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner only cited the Reynolds reference as "prior art made of record and <u>not</u> relied upon." *See* Final Office Action, page 28 (emphasis added). Clearly, the Examiner did not incorporate Reynolds into an inherency contention. Second, the Reynolds reference does nothing to make the hypothetical

feature of "the computing device and transmission device are separate" exist in Marsh. Third, Appellants respectfully assert that if the Examiner is to rely on the Reynolds reference to teach such feature, then an obviousness rejection combining the references and modifying Marsh, for example, would be the appropriate path. Appellants have had no opportunity to respond to such a rejection. Further, Appellants do not concede that Reynolds teaches such a feature, that the combination of references would be proper, or that there would be an appropriate reason to modify Marsh in such a way as to read on independent claims 1 and 26. Nevertheless, again, such a feature is not inherent in Marsh and, therefore, the Examiner has not established anticipation.

In view of the foregoing, Marsh cannot anticipate claims 1 and 26, or their dependent claims. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request the Board direct the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

### C.    Ground of Rejection No. 3:

In the Final Office Action, dependent claims 7, 15, 32, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Examiner's Official Notice. Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection. As the Examiner's Official Notice does not obviate the deficiencies of the Marsh reference discussed above with regard to the independent claims, the dependent claims 15, 32, and 40 are believed to be patentable by virtue of their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly Appellants respectfully request the Board direct the examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

### D.    Ground of Rejection No. 4:

In the Final Office Action, dependent claims 8 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Bothman (U.S. 2003/0101108). Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection. As the Bothman reference does not obviate the deficiencies of the Marsh reference discussed above with regard to

the independent claims, the dependent claims 8 and 33 are believed to be patentable by virtue of their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly Appellants respectfully request the Board direct the examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.
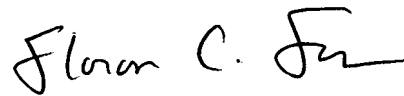
E.    **Ground of Rejection No. 5:**

In the Final Office Action, dependent claims 9, 10, 14, 34, 35, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh in view of Bothman (U.S. 2003/0101108), and further in view of Ahlberg et al. U.S. 6,587,836). Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection. As the Bothman and Ahlberg references do not obviate the deficiencies of the Marsh reference discussed above with regard to the independent claims, the dependent claims 9, 10, 14, 34, 35, and 39 are believed to be patentable by virtue of their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly Appellants respectfully request the Board direct the examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

## Conclusion

Appellants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner or Board wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner or Board is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>October 9, 2007</u>

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8.    **APPENDIX OF CLAIMS ON APPEAL**

1.    A system for enabling enhanced asset management and tracking capabilities, comprising:

a plurality of electronic asset identification devices, wherein each of the plurality of electronic asset identification devices is affixed to an asset whose location and information are to be managed,

wherein each of the plurality of asset identification devices includes at least unique identification information relating to the asset to which it is affixed;

an asset management server computer system for maintaining at least one database containing information regarding the asset identification devices and the assets to which they are affixed;

a remote client computer system operatively connected to the asset management server computer system for exchanging information over a computer network; and

at least one interrogation device operatively connected to the remote client computer system,

wherein the at least one interrogation device is separate from the remote client computer system and receives information from the plurality of asset identification devices and exchanges said information with the remote client computer system.

2.    The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of electronic asset management devices include radio frequency identification tags.

3.    The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one interrogation device includes a fixed radio frequency identification tag reader.

4.    The system of claim 2, wherein the at least one interrogation device includes a handheld radio frequency identification tag reader.

5.      The system of claim 4, wherein the handheld radio frequency identification tag reader is a handheld computing device.

6.      The system of claim 5, wherein the remote client computer system is a handheld computing device.

7.      The system of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one legacy database system operatively connected to the asset management server computer system, for enabling exchange of legacy information relating to the assets to be managed.

8.      The system of claim 1, wherein the asset management server computer system further comprises:

at least one web application server computer system for serving a plurality of interactive web pages relating to the asset identification devices and the assets to which they are affixed.

9.      The system of claim 8, further comprising:

at least one hypertext transfer protocol server computer system operatively connected to the web application server computer system; and

at least one authentication server computer system operatively connected to the hypertext transfer protocol server for performing authentication and logon services, wherein the authentication server computer system is further operatively connected to an LDAP directory system for facilitating user login and authentication,

wherein information exchanges initiated by the remote client computer system result in a first connection between the remote client computer system and the at least one authentication server computer system.

10.      The system of claim 8, wherein the plurality of interactive web pages include:

a home page;

a login page for receiving user login information;

a main menu page for displaying a plurality of options to users, selection of which a user to view and/or modify the asset management information maintained on the asset management web server computer system;

a project details page for displaying general information regarding asset management information relating to a selected project;

an asset search page for receiving asset search criteria from the user, the submission of which causes the asset management web server computer system to retrieve asset management information matching the submitted search criteria;

an asset search results page for displaying the retrieved asset management information; and

an asset details page for displaying specific asset management information relating to a selected one of the assets displayed on the asst search results page.

11.    The system of claim 10, further comprising:

at least one authentication server computer system operatively connected to the web application server computer system for facilitating user login and authentication, wherein the web server application serves different web pages depending upon login information received from the remote client computer system.

12.    The system of claim 11, wherein upon receipt of an administration level user, the plurality of interactive web pages further include:

a show report menu page for enabling users to select and create reports of available asset management information;

a synchronize web page for receiving file information for a file to be synchronized;

an asset receipt form web page for receiving a user indication regarding receipt of an asset;

an asset exception annotation web page for receiving information regarding an exception to be added to a selected asset;

an asset exception list page for displaying a listing of asset management exceptions associated with a selected project; and

a resolve asset exception web page, wherein users may indicate that a selected exception has been resolved.


13.    The system of claim 11, wherein upon receipt of a material handling level user, the plurality of interactive web pages further include:

a synchronize web page for receiving file information for a file to be synchronized;

an asset receipt form web page for receiving a user indication regarding receipt of an asset;

an asset exception annotation web page for receiving information regarding an exception to be added to a selected asset;

an asset exception list page for displaying a listing of asset management exceptions associated with a selected project;

an asset storage maintenance details web page for displaying asset management information relating to the storage and maintenance of a selected asset;

an asset location form web page for displaying the physical location of a selected asset; and

an update asset location form web page for receiving updated asset location information for a selected asset.


14.    The system of claim 8, further comprising:

at least one hypertext transfer protocol server computer system operatively connected to the web application server computer system; and

at least one authentication server computer system operatively connected to the hypertext transfer protocol server for performing authentication and logon services,

wherein the authentication server computer system is further operatively connected to an LDAP directory system for facilitating user login and authentication,

wherein information exchanges initiated by the remote client computer system result in a first connection between the remote client computer system and the at least one authentication server computer system.

15.     The system of claim 1, wherein the remote client computer system is a laptop or notebook style computer system.

16.     The system of claim 1, wherein information is synchronized between the at least one interrogation device and the remote client computer system, such that changes to the information made on the at least one interrogation device are translated to the information maintained on the remote client computer system.

17.     The system of claim 16, wherein information is synchronized between the remote computer system and the asset management server computer system, such that changes to the information made on the remote client computer system are translated to the information maintained on the asset management server computer system.

18.     The system of claim 1, further comprising additional remote client computer systems operatively connected to the asset management server computer system for enabling users to access and modify information contained on the asset management computer system.

19.     The system of claim 18, wherein users operating the additional remote client computer systems are provided specialized access depending upon login information received by the asset management server computer system.

20.     The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one interrogation device further comprises:

a computer software application resident thereon, wherein the computer software application incorporates one or more instructions for wirelessly determining the presence of a plurality of electronic asset identification devices.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the computer software application further comprises:

one or more instructions for determining whether a selected electronic asset identification device is within a range of the interrogation device;

one or more instructions for indicating the presence of the selected electronic asset identification device to the user; and

one or more instructions for enhancing the indication of the presence of the selected electronic asset identification device upon increasing proximity to the selected electronic asset identification device.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the computer software application further comprises:

one or more instructions for displaying asset management information regarding a selected asset, wherein the asset management information includes an indication regarding whether the selected asset has been confirmed; an indication that the selected asset has an electronic asset identification device affixed thereto; an indication regarding the presence of the affixed electronic asset identification; and an indication regarding the storage status of the selected asset.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the computer software application further comprises:

one or more instructions for receiving an asset location area description;

one or more instructions for scanning the asset location area to identify the presence therein of electronic asset identification devices; and

one or more instructions for determining whether identified electronic asset identification devices correspond to information received from the asset management server computer system.

24.     The system of claim 20, wherein the computer software application further comprises:

one or more instructions for synchronizing local information with asset management information received from the asset management server computer system for a selected group of assets.

25.     The system of claim 20, wherein the computer software application further comprises:

one or more instructions for receiving a user confirmation that a selected asset has been received; and

one or more instructions for receiving exception information relating to the selected asset.

26.     (A method for enabling enhanced asset management and tracking capabilities, comprising:

affixing a plurality of electronic asset identification devices to an asset whose location and information are to be managed;

programming each of the plurality of asset identification devices to include at least unique identification information relating to the asset to which it is affixed;

maintaining at least one database containing information regarding the asset identification devices and the assets to which they are affixed on an asset management server computer system;

operatively connecting a remote client computer system to the asset management server computer system for exchanging information over a computer network; and

operatively connecting at least one interrogation device to the remote client computer system, wherein the at least one interrogation device is separate from the

remote client computer system and receives information from the plurality of asset identification devices and exchanges said information with the remote client computer system.

27.    The method of claim 26, wherein the plurality of electronic asset management devices include radio frequency identification tags.

28.    .The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one interrogation device includes a fixed radio frequency identification tag reader.

29.    The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one interrogation device includes a handheld radio frequency identification tag reader.

30.    The method of claim 29, wherein the handheld radio frequency identification tag reader is a handheld computing device.

31.    The method of claim 30, wherein the remote client computer system is a handheld computing device.

32.    The method of claim 26, further comprising:
operatively connecting at least one legacy database system to the asset management server computer system, for enabling exchange of legacy information relating to the assets to be managed.

33.    The method of claim 26, wherein the step maintaining at least one database on an asset management server computer system further comprises:
serving a plurality of interactive web pages relating to the asset identification devices and the assets to which they are affixed from at least one web application server computer system.

34.    The method of claim 33, further comprising:

operatively connecting at least one hypertext transfer protocol server computer system to the web application server computer system; and

operatively connecting at least one authentication server computer system to the hypertext transfer protocol server for performing authentication and logon services, wherein the authentication server computer system is further operatively connected to an LDAP directory system for facilitating user login and authentication,

wherein information exchanges initiated by the remote client computer system result in a first connection between the remote client computer system and the at least one authentication server computer system.

35.    The method of claim 33, wherein the step of serving a plurality of interactive web pages further comprises the steps of:

displaying a home page;

displaying a login page for receiving user login information;

displaying a main menu page for displaying a plurality of options to users, selection of which a user to view and/or modify the asset management information maintained on the asset management web server computer system;

displaying a project details page for displaying general information regarding asset management information relating to a selected project;

displaying an asset search page for receiving asset search criteria from the user, the submission of which causes the asset management web server computer system to retrieve asset management information matching the submitted search criteria;

displaying an asset search results page for displaying the retrieved asset management information; and

displaying an asset details page for displaying specific asset management information relating to a selected one of the assets displayed on the asst search results page.

36.    The method of claim 35, further comprising:

operatively connection at least one authentication server computer system to the web application server computer system for facilitating user login and authentication, wherein the web server application serves different web pages depending upon login information received from the remote client computer system.

37.    The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

receiving administrative level user login information;:

displaying a show report menu page for enabling users to select and create reports of available asset management information;

displaying a synchronize web page for receiving file information for a file to be synchronized;

displaying an asset receipt form web page for receiving a user indication regarding receipt of an asset;

displaying an asset exception annotation web page for receiving information regarding an exception to be added to a selected asset;

displaying an asset exception list page for displaying a listing of asset management exceptions associated with a selected project; and

displaying a resolve asset exception web page, wherein users may indicate that a selected exception has been resolved.

38.    The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

receiving material handling level user login information;

displaying a synchronize web page for receiving file information for a file to be synchronized;

displaying an asset receipt form web page for receiving a user indication regarding receipt of an asset;

displaying an asset exception annotation web page for receiving information regarding an exception to be added to a selected asset;

displaying an asset exception list page for displaying a listing of asset management exceptions associated with a selected project;

displaying an asset storage maintenance details web page for displaying asset management information relating to the storage and maintenance of a selected asset;

displaying an asset location form web page for displaying the physical location of a selected asset; and

displaying an update asset location form web page for receiving updated asset location information for a selected asset.

39.     The method of claim 33, further comprising:

operatively connecting at least one hypertext transfer protocol server computer system to the web application server computer system; and

operatively connecting at least one authentication server computer system to the hypertext transfer protocol server for performing authentication and logon services, wherein the authentication server computer system is further operatively connected to an LDAP directory system for facilitating user login and authentication,

wherein information exchanges initiated by the remote client computer system result in a first connection between the remote client computer system and the at least one authentication server computer system.

40.     The method of claim 26, wherein the remote client computer system is a laptop or notebook style computer system.

41.     The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

synchronizing information between the at least one interrogation device and the remote client computer system, such that changes to the information made on the at least one interrogation device are translated to the information maintained on the remote client computer system.

42.     The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:

synchronizing information between the remote computer system and the asset management server computer system, such that changes to the information made on the remote client computer system are translated to the information maintained on the asset management server computer system.

43.     The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

operatively connecting additional remote client computer systems to the asset management server computer system for enabling users to access and modify information contained on the asset management computer system.

44.     The method of claim 43, wherein users operating the additional remote client computer systems are provided specialized access depending upon login information received by the asset management server computer system.

45.     The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of wirelessly determining, by a computer software application resident on the at least one interrogation device, the presence of a plurality of electronic asset identification devices.

46.     The method of claim 45, wherein the computer software application further performs the steps of:

determining whether a selected electronic asset identification device is within a range of the interrogation device;

indicating the presence of the selected electronic asset identification device to the user; and

enhancing the indication of the presence of the selected electronic asset identification device upon increasing proximity to the selected electronic asset identification device.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the computer software application further performs the step of:

displaying asset management information regarding a selected asset, wherein the asset management information includes an indication regarding whether the selected asset has been confirmed; an indication that the selected asset has an electronic asset identification device affixed thereto; an indication regarding the presence of the affixed electronic asset identification; and an indication regarding the storage status of the selected asset.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the computer software application further performs the steps of:

receiving an asset location area description;

scanning the asset location area to identify the presence therein of electronic asset identification devices; and

determining whether identified electronic asset identification devices correspond to information received from the asset management server computer system.

49. The method of claim 45, wherein the computer software application further performs the step of:

synchronizing local information with asset management information received from the asset management server computer system for a selected group of assets.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the computer software application further performs the steps of:

receiving a user confirmation that a selected asset has been received; and

receiving exception information relating to the selected asset.

## 9. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

10. **RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

None.